

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 L-03
H-01 PA-01 ICAE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 /067 R

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APPROVED BY EA:ROAKLEY
D/HA:FSIEVERTS
EA/P:JCANNON
-----025805 060012Z /64
O R 052343Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
INFO CINCPAC
SECDEF/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169814

PARIS FOR MARESCA. CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PDIP, MILI, US, VM

SUBJECT: SRV HONOLULU VISIT: MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS ON ARRIVAL

1. EMBASSY LIAISON OFFICER SHOULD CONVEY FOLLOWING POINTS
TO SRV LIAISON OFFICER REGARDING PUBLIC RELATIONS ASPECTS
OF AIRPORT ARRIVAL OF VIETNAMESE TEAM IN HONOLULU.

2. MEDIA INTEREST WILL BE HIGH THROUGHOUT VISIT BUT WILL
FOCUS UPON AIRPORT ARRIVAL, FIRST VISIT TO CENTRAL IDENTI-
FICATION LABORATORIES (PROBABLY AFTERNOON OF FIRST WORK
DAY), JCRC ALSO ON FIRST DAY, AND ON DEPARTURE OF TEAM.
THERE WILL BE AMERICAN TV COVERAGE OF ARRIVAL AS WELL AS
OTHER JOURNALISTS PRESENT AT AIRPORT. SIEVERTS AND BROWN
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WILL GREET VU HOANG AND MFA REPRESENTATIVE IMMEDIATELY ON
VIETNAMESE TEAM'S EXITING OF AIRCRAFT. AT THAT TIME
SIEVERTS WILL MAKE BRIEF WELCOMING REMARKS.

3. MR. HOANG WILL THEN HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE STATEMENT
AND, IF HE WISHES, REPLY TO QUESTIONS FROM PRESS. IT IS
PROBABLE THAT MEDIA WILL CONTINUE TO PUT QUESTIONS ENROUTE

TO VEHICLES.

4. IN OUR PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT OF JUNE 27, SPOKESMAN

STRESSED THAT PURPOSE OF VIETNAMESE VISIT TO HAWAII WAS UNIQUELY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS OF TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF MIA QUESTION. WHEN ASKED IF NORMALIZATION WOULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED, HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY. IN OUR BACKGROUND REPLIES TO SIMILAR QUESTIONS SINCE JUNE 27, WE HAVE POINTED OUT TECHNICAL CHARACTER OF HAWAII VISIT, WHICH WE INTEND TO REITERATE IF ASKED BY MEDIA. WE WILL, OF COURSE, CONTINUE TO TAKE THIS LINE WITH MEDIA IN HONOLULU, INCLUDING AT ARRIVAL OF SRV DELEGATION.

5. DURING FIRST WORK SESSION, SIEVERTS, BROWN AND CANNON WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THEIR VIETNAMESE COUNTER-PARTS HANDLING OF MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS THROUGHOUT VISIT INCLUDING ANY MEETING WITH MEDIA VIETNAMESE MAY PROPOSE, POSSIBLE PRESS CONFERENCE AND DEPARTURE FORMALITIES. IT IS OUR HOPE THAT ENTIRE VISIT, INCLUDING STATEMENTS TO PRESS WILL BE AS HARMONIOUS AS POSSIBLE. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE WOULD WELCOME VIETNAMESE COMMENTS ON SUGGESTIONS MADE ABOVE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE169814
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: FZBROWN/FMLC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780276-0613
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780793/aaaadavj.tel
Line Count: 85
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f4fbfb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2111930
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SRV HONOLULU VISIT: MEDIA ARRANGEMENTS ON ARRIVAL
TAGS: PDIP, MILI, US, VM
To: PARIS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f4fbfb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014